

CLAIMS

1 1. A method for protecting files distributed over a network, comprising the
2 steps of:
3 displaying a list of files;
4 generating protection status information in response to selection by a user of at
5 least one of the files in the list of files; and
6 sending the protection status information to a server computer.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said displaying step displays a list of files
2 together with a corresponding protection status for each file in the list of files, and
3 wherein the method further comprises the step of modifying protection status of at least
4 one of the files, and wherein said sending step sends modified protection status
5 information to a server computer.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising recording the protection status
2 information in a protection status database.

1 4. A system for protecting files distributed over a network, comprising:
2 a user interface displaying a list of files;
3 a protection status manager generating protection status information in response
4 to selection by a user of at least one of the files in the list of files; and
5 a transmitter sending the protection status information to a server computer.

1 5. The system of claim 4 wherein said user interface displays a list of files
2 together with a corresponding protection status for each file in the list of files, and
3 wherein the protection status manager modifies protection status of at least one of the

4 files, and wherein said transmitter sends modified protection status information to a
5 server computer.

1 6. The system of claim 4 further comprising a database manager recording the
2 protection status information in a protection status database.